



A Missouri State Library news service

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Newsline Extra features time-sensitive information about State Library programs and current news of interest to the Missouri library community.

Carnahan announces retirement of Sara Parker, State Librarian

Secretary of State Robin Carnahan today announced that Sara Parker, State Librarian, is retiring at the end of December. Parker was appointed as State Librarian in June 1995 by former Secretary of State Bekki Cook.

In her years as State Librarian, Parker was intimately involved in the development of critical statewide projects that improved library services across Missouri. During her tenure, the Missouri Research and Educational Network (MOREnet) was developed and funding was provided to bring the Internet to libraries statewide through the Remote Electronic Access for Libraries (REAL) program. In addition, the Missouri Bibliographic Information Users System (MOBIUS) was created, enabling citizens to search and borrow from the collections of public and private colleges and universities from across the state through interlibrary loan. Parker also established the Secretary's Council on Library Development to ensure that the Secretary of State received input on library needs and state policy from citizens, librarians, schools, and the higher education community.

Before becoming Missouri's State Librarian, Parker also served as State Librarian in Montana for six years and in Pennsylvania for seven years. She has also been an active member of the American Library Association, the Missouri Library Association, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, and the International Federation of Library Agencies.

Parker intends to start her retirement in Barry County on property she owns along a couple of beautiful creeks she has long enjoyed.

"As a native Missourian it was wonderful to be able to finish my career serving the people here," said Parker. "I am very proud to have been involved in dramatic improvements in technology that citizens can see every day. I have loved the teamwork and support of Missouri's local libraries, the school librarians in public and private schools, and the academic community. It has also been very rewarding to be involved with the Wolfner Library and the critical services that they provide to the blind and disabled."

"Sara Parker has helped improve library services for every Missourian over the past ten years," said Carnahan. "I want to join librarians across the state in thanking Sara for her service to the state and wishing her a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement."

Secretary Carnahan also announced that the search for a new State Librarian will begin immediately.

"I am committed to finding a high energy advocate for Missouri's libraries who will continue to lead us in the information age," said Carnahan.

The State Library provides leadership in library development, handles all funding sent to Missouri libraries through the federal Library Services Technology Act, and supports the information reference needs of state government. In addition, the Wolfner Library provides library services to blind and disabled Missourians. To inquire about positions in the Secretary of State's Office, please contact Carl Greeson at 573) 751-2974 or carl.greeson@sos.mo.gov.

To be placed on the e-mail list to receive *Newsline Extra* or to unsubscribe, contact the Missouri State Library at (573) 751-2680, or e-mail holly.dentner@sos.mo.gov.

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